

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the indication that Applicant's drawings are acceptable, for the acknowledgment of Applicant's Information Disclosure Statements by return of the Form PTO-1449, and for the acknowledgment of Applicant's Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the Official Action.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 3-6 contain allowable subject matter, on page 3 of the Official Action.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 2 and 3 will have been canceled and claims 1, 4 and 5 will have been amended. Claims 1 and 4-7 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding objections and rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

Applicant notes that claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 2 and 3, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Further, the remaining claims each depend from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests an early indication of the allowance of all of the pending claims.

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On pages 2 and 3 of the Official Action, claims 1, 2, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Applicant notes that claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 2 and 3, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable.

Accordingly, this rejection is deemed to be moot. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and an early indication of the allowance of all of the pending claims.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so.

Any amendments to the claims that have been made in this amendment, which do not narrow the scope of the claims, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Kiyoshi YAMAMOTO

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bernstein", followed by the handwritten text "Reg. No. 48,214".

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Reg. No. 29,027

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